

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 19: July - August 2014
Summer edition

Interviews

Demented Show

VELVET EDEN

Ladybeard

KAMIJO

LOKA

Fashion & features

Aristocrat

Gothic

INORAN

Somewhere, right here

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On the back cover: KAMIJO

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 19th edition already, and the one marking our 3 year anniversary! Time sure does fly and I'd like to thank all the readers for sticking by us and every contributor that helped BCM get this far!

In this summer edition we spoke to several musical artists: INORAN, KAMIJO, LOKA and VELVET EDEN, but also to rising star of Japanese wrestling: Ladybeard. As well as Sophie Debusne of the brand new touring collective Demented Show.

Fashion wise it's all about aristocrat and gothic fashion styles and of course about what our readers and J-fashionistas all over Europe wear in our snap and event pages, and so much more!

To top it off we have a brand new page! Check that Cheki, featuring fun photos taken with the increasingly popular cheki cameras. We've got photos of J-fashion people, people close to BCM such as the crew of Antwerp's 8tea5 bubble tea bar and even artists! Want to join in next time? Send some scans of cheki photos! As always and with anything, everyone is welcome to participate in BCM!

I hope you'll enjoy this edition, and I'd like to extend a huge thanks to all our readers and contributors, you guys rock, and I couldn't do this without you!

Have a great summer everyone! We'll be back in autumn with our traditional Halloween edition!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

With aristocrat fashion the name speaks for itself, the outfit is all about nobility. It is without doubt one of the more mature and distinguished styles that is commonly associated with both lolita and gothic fashions. But regardless of that, more and more different fashion styles have their own particular take on aristocrat. This article is thus about aristocratic fashions in general rather than just the gothic lolita sub section of J-fashion.

Whilst aristocrat/goth(ic lolita) brands such as *Moi-même-Moitié* and *Atelier Boz* are undoubtedly not only best known but also most coveted amongst those that wear the style, there is a veritable myriad of options when it comes to putting together your outfit. Several goth brands, both Japanese and western, cater to the style. Especially the quite recently resurrected *Raven* (now *Raven SDL*) has quite a few useable pieces, and web stores such as *x-tra.de* are definitely a good place to shop. Buyer beware though, if the quality of places such as *Bodyline* and *Fan + Friend* is reputed to be doubtful at times, that is definitely something that needs consideration when shopping western goth brands. It's best to make sure you can either see an item in real life first, or have the option of free and hassle free returns. Alternatives also are thrift shops and even main street stores as many pieces are of the kind that is pretty readily available.

The basic silhouette, regardless of the style of fashion you are going for with an aristocrat outfit, is to look distinguished. Suit trousers, be they regular or wide fit, are easy enough to find so even if you're on a budget that's something you can cover relatively easily, especially with the sales period looming around the corner. The same goes for nice shirts, which can be used as valid alternatives to the shirts with special collars and detailing you commonly see used in J-fashion. If you are handy with needle and thread, you can even alter your own basic shirt and no one will ever know you got it cheap at a main stream shop. Long line vests, coats and waistcoats are a bit trickier to find outside specialised Japanese brands or western goth scene alternatives, so if you don't want to buy from either, you may have to resolve to finding someone to make them for you or make them yourself. In any case, long, flowing, yet distinguished pieces are what really makes the outfit.

Whilst the fashion does have a clearly different style for both men and women, it is unisex and both styles are worn by both genders, it's what you prefer. Key pieces are long and layered though. With long, narrower, often inspired by historical garments, skirts and blouses with flouncy sleeves. If you can't find/afford or make a skirt with layers towards the bottom, you can sort out that problem with clever layering to get the same effect. Just make sure it's long, respectable and suits the style. Short jackets have been known to substitute long coats, but in this case they are nearly always historical in make or strongly historically inspired, think the beautiful short Victorian style jackets. If you don't know how those look, don't worry, there are plenty of fashion drawings from that era you can easily find via a simple Google search.

Accessories for ladies consist of vintage (style) hats; wide brimmed hats, often decorated with veils or flowers, (half) bonnets, floral or goth style hair pieces, (lace) gloves, folding fans, lace parasols or Victoriana and Edwardiana style umbrellas and classic or gothic lolita style bags such as batwing models. Make sure that you go for classy and Goth rather than cute though.

Men's accessories favour top hats, walking canes, umbrellas (preferably the kind you can lean on like you would on a cane) and gloves. Additionally, if you wish to go really over the top, you could go for a monocle and pocket watch as well.

Jewellery also has a lot of similarities to that of the gothic persuasion, and once again goth shops are a fine place to shop for pieces, as well as Japanese brands that specialise in gothic and gothic lolita fashions. Classic lolita shops may also be a fine place to look as many of the accessories there are also very useable. High street shops often carry faux gem stone rings and rosaries, which also work nicely if that's your cup of tea.

Footwear ranges from Victoriana style shoes to all kinds of platform style footwear for women, again, be careful to go for something that still looks proper and has a sense of nobility to it in your outfit. Avoid the overly cute or industrial looking (that only works in style mix outfits, not the traditional aristocrat fashion). Whilst boots are favoured by many they are by no means a necessity. If you prefer low shoes, by all means, go for those, your trousers or skirt will be so long that you can't really tell whether your shoes are low or high anyway. Derbies, brogues and even the type of modern classic shoe that goes with a regular suit works really well with aristocrat fashions as an alternative to platform footwear.

Whilst aristocrat is mostly affiliated with the colour black, all white, grey, jewel toned or mixes thereof outfits are not unheard of. Prints are rare and always subtle and consist of classic flowers (mostly roses), scrollwork, crosses, gate work and similar. Mostly they are details on a garment rather than an actual print. If you do want to go for a printed fabric for a piece and you're making it yourself, check your local upscale fabric store, as they are most likely to sell something you are looking for. Limit your colours, because too many colours in an outfit is not something that works terribly well with this style, unless you're going for certain style mixes of course. Traditional aristocrat outfits generally consist of either one or two colours.

As above mentioned, style mixes are increasingly popular, especially in the gothic and visual kei and steampunk scenes. Contrary to most other fashions, mixing in aristocrat is not that hard as many of the styles there already favour distinguished, long line and layered garments. Key rule is distinguished and a feeling of nobility, as well as the traditional aristocrat silhouette no matter what fashion you're mixing it with. Even when you go for tarnished nobility, your outfit needs to abide by these rules even though your clothes may look a bit rattier in style with shredded hems and beat up footwear.

Aristocrat is a fashion that requires a lot of attention to detail. Whilst there are strict rules, they are still broad enough to offer you plenty of options. Regardless of that, a budget is still necessary to purchase necessary pieces as not everything can easily be found offbrand or in thrift stores at a smaller price than what you would spend on brands. That aside, it is one of the styles for which it is relatively easy to find all pieces for and it's versatility in allowing it for style mixes makes it a splendid style for those wanting to stray from traditional goth fashions, that want a more mature style than the traditional cute or rock style J-fashions or simply want to look noble and distinguished.





Aristocratic Nobility



Discipulus of COALESCAREMONIUM. Hat, collaboration between Bathat and Discipulus. Scarf, model's own. Coat, handmade by Discipulus. Shirt, handmade by Discipulus. Opera gloves, offbrand. Trousers, model's own. Bag, offbrand. Skull heeled boots, Inamagura. Jewellery, Ornamentum ex medio.



Nocturne of COALESCAREMONIUM. Neck and shoulder piece, Red Queen's Black Legion. Feather bolero, Elegant Groceries. Jacket, Punk Rave. Shirt, Theatr'hall. Belt, Restyle. Lace gloves, Red Queen's Black Legion. Skirt, designed by Nocturne. Boots, offbrand.







Jill of Rose Noire, wearing an outfit created exclusively for her by massaging capsule.





Louie of Rose Noire, wearing an outfit created exclusively for him by massaging capsule. **Armour ring**, Poorman's Gold Label. Other accessories, Louie's own.



Coat, Fan + Friend. Blouse, Moi Même Moitié. Skirt, offbrand. Cane, Sauer Stöcke. Shoes, offbrand.



Dancho of visual kei/heavy metal band NoGoD, wearing a style mix outfit between Aristocrat and Visual Kei that was designed especially for him.

NoGoD will be performing two dates at the upcoming 15th edition of Japan Expo on July 5 and 6 at the Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France. For more info, check this edition's calendar.



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Event: Antwerp Convention
When: April 27
What: Pop culture convention
Where: Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: depending on when you bought your ticket.
Website: www.antwerpconvention.be
facebook.com/antwerp.convention

It was the fourth edition already of *Antwerp Convention* and lo and behold it was awesome! This year, undoubtedly thanks to the presence of guest *Colin Baker*, of *Doctor Who* fame, as well as the news that for the first time the convention would span two halls, and the program in itself, the visitor numbers expanded exponentially. Normally you could arrive easily between 10 and 11am and find only a couple handfuls of people in front of you at the ticket office. Not this time however, and queues to get in of 1-2 hours were not unheard of. Considering it is Antwerp Convention, we can rest assured that this sort of madness won't happen again, as they're one of those cons that is fabulous when it comes to improving on things with every edition.

Even though getting in was a serious show of patience if you hadn't purchased your ticket beforehand, once you were inside it was all good as the convention was truly amazing this year. And once people got in, it was easy to get your hands on a program (either they were distributed by volunteers or you could get them at the info desk) to find out exactly what was going on where.

The set-up was also pretty skilfully done, with one hall being filled with organisations and clubs, independent designers and artists selling their wares, the TARDIS photo set-up, horror movie props, some computer gaming and one of the stages. The main stage, as well as the wrestling stage, were both set up in the other hall, which featured the guests, gaming clubs, board game area and commercial shops. Both halls featured a good variety of foods, at reasonable prices, and drink stands. Getting drinks could be a bit of a nightmare, as you needed coupons that you could purchase at the entrance, which meant braving the queues from hell. That aside, the con ran out of drinks somewhere around 5pm, but the organisation handled it brilliantly. Not only did they stop the sale of coupons immediately, in a true tour de force they managed to get extra drinks delivered

45 minutes before the end of the event. They could have just refunded everyone who still had coupons left, but no, they wanted to make sure there were actually drinks so no one would get dehydrated. So kudos to them!

Even though there were stages in both rooms, they never got so loud they were an actual nuisance if you happened to be around in the area (I can't speak for the dealers that were there all day of course, I imagine it was worse for them than for the people just hanging around for a limited time). Dividing both stages over both halls was definitely a great decision to keep the noise down. Even though at times you had to talk a little louder, you didn't have to shout at the top of your lungs to get heard or have a conversation. The final stage, which hosted the panels and talks, was placed upstairs, so people attending wouldn't be bothered by all the rest going on at the convention, personally I think that's a great idea because that way you only get people that want to be there in the room and panels go on pretty undisturbed.

Aside from cosplay, panels, talks, gaming, karaoke, wrestling and all kinds of tournaments and competitions there was also a live taping of Belgium's most popular podcast by stand-up comedian *Xander De Rycke*, *Mosselen om Half Twee*, offering the visitors the unique chance to participate in this special edition.

Shopping is of course a big deal and I did, once again, found Antwerp Convention to be the event where you can find more varied and often rarer things than at other pop culture conventions. Even the *Japan Centre* from London had come down from the UK with a stand, selling all kinds of bits and bobs and snacks at better prices than I've seen at J-culture cons lately. Japanese culture in general was well represented with several shops catering to the aficionados, as well as the presence of both *Belgotaku* and *Nippon Zasshi*. Aside from that you could see over a dozen people wearing J-fashions, mostly lolita fashion styles.

The biggest strong point of this convention though is the atmosphere. Even though Antwerp Convention is growing every year, it remains incredibly welcoming. First of all it caters to literally every kind of geek, and they're all made feel equally welcome. People aren't practically shoving each other aside to get to shopping, people are courteous, it's an awesome environment to hang out and even bring the little ones. More so than other conventions of its kind, this is really a family friendly and all ages affair. Added to that there are so many things to do to keep everyone happy and occupied for the entirety of the day, and you have the winning formula that is Antwerp Convention, and hopefully we'll be able to enjoy this event for many, many more years to come.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



Photographic impressions of **ANTWERP CONVENTION #4**

Sunday, April 27; Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Babs Barring.



BELGIAN CUPCAKES J-FASHION MEET

Sunday, May 18; Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

Froyo at Moochie, photo fun, drinks at De Living and sheep shearing festival at Averegten woods.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Glenn Palmans.



Castles and Princesses

LOLITA FASHION MEET AT CASTLE AUGUSTUSBURG

Saturday, May 31; Brühl, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



Event: Wave Gotik Treffen (WGT)

When: June 6 - 9

What: Europe's largest Gothic festival/event

Where: all over the city of Leipzig, Germany

Ticket price: € 99

Obsorgekarte (camping admission): € 25

Parking vignette for parking at the festival area: € 15

Website: www.wave-gotik-treffen.de

The 23rd Edition of the world's largest Gothic event *Wave Gotik Treffen* (WGT) took place from the 6th to the 9th June in the city of Leipzig in Germany. The whole town is turned into one big festival, because the event locations are all spread over the city. With the festival ticket you can use the public transport to move from one location to another easily. This year was the hottest WGT ever and even the weather records said it was the hottest first June weekend since the records began. With temperatures around 36°C and more black was really a challenge and not only the colour itself but all outfits with more than one layer.

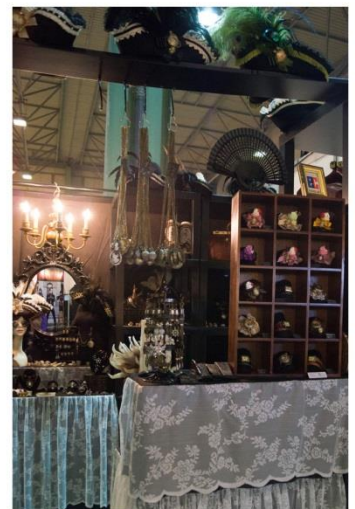
Despite the temperatures the guests of the nearly traditional beginning of WGT, *Viona's Victorian Picnic* at the *Clara-Zetkin-Park* dressed up in their fanciest gowns and enjoyed the picnic in the shadow of the trees. This year the organisers tried a new system of dividing the area into two parts: The picnic zone and the peacock zone. Whereas the first was forbidden for photographers the second was open for everybody. This new system made it more relaxed for all the beautiful Victorian lads and ladies (including some lolitas) because during the past years the number of photographers had increased a lot. That was also the reason why the *Steampunk Picnic* on Saturday moved to a quieter location. Nevertheless around 150 steampunks found their way to the *Parkschlösschen* and enjoyed the afternoon in the shadow.

But of course there was more to do at WGT than picnicking: due to the hot weather the events with air-con were much sought after. Like readings of well-known to the scene authors like *Mark Benecke* or *Christian von Aster*, a concert on the *Park stage*, or a visit to one of the many museums. A lot of the local museums offer free entrance for WGT guests and even special guided tours. But you have to be early for those because the number of participants is limited.

You can also spend the day shopping at the *agra*, which is besides being the main festival area with the main stage also the great shopping hall with a lot of gothic scene sellers but also a number of smaller sellers that offer more individual products. If you are more into pagan or medieval stuff you should visit the small *Medieval Market* on top of the *Moritz Bastei* as well as the bigger one *Heidnisches Dorf*. Both have a variety of medieval food and products and their own stage with fitting music acts.

When it comes to music the WGT offers a broad variety of artists. There are well-known headliners like ex-*Nightwish* singer *Tarja Turunen*, *Oomph!*, *Apoptgyma Berzerk*, or *Frontline Assembly*. But also a lot of smaller bands get a chance to play at one of the many locations, and it's often the case that similar bands will play at one stage, so if you know one of the playing you might like the others as well. In addition to the live music there are also a lot of parties in the evening, with DJs from bigger clubs all over Europe. You can choose between Dark Romantic Balls, Band Specials, and there even is a Visual Kei party: *VK OnE – Japanese Rock, Pop and Glamour*.

While all those attractions may offer a lot entertainment the most interesting part of the Wave Gotik Treffen may be the guests itself: a lot of the visitors take the opportunity to wear their most opulent and flamboyant outfits and you can spend hours just sitting at the main road at *agra* watching all the beautiful people. Nothing is too much and everything goes, from nearly-nothing to full rococo style dresses, from dark vampires to medieval damsels, from sweet lolitas to bare chested vikings. There's a reason they call this road "catwalk of vanity"... But of course you can also go "just black" and enjoy the event!



Photographic impressions of WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN

June 6 - 9, all over Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



INTERNATIONAL LOLITA DAY MEET

Meeting up for the occasion for a picnic, photo fun and Lolita Bingo.

Saturday, June 7; Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and a kind passer-by.



This is actually an art installation in the Citadelpark.





Steampunk meets J-fashion

FOR INTERNATIONAL STEAMPUNK DAY

Cupcakes at Momade Cupcakes, bubble tea at Stea5, (thrift) shopping and photo fun.
Saturday, June 14; Antwerp Belgium.

Photography by Babs Barning, Ling Hua Fan and Hilde Heyvaert.





Event: FantasyVal, Fantasy in Wonderland

What: Fantasy fair

When: June 14 & 15

Where: Estate Wouwse Plantage, Wouwse Plantage, the Netherlands

Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula

Website: www.fantasyval.com

FantasyVal is one of the smaller fantasy fairs that takes place in the Netherlands. Unlike the big three (*Elfia Arcen*, *Elfia Haarzuilens* and *Castlefest*) this one doesn't take place on castle grounds, but rather at the estate *Wouwse Plantage*, in the town with the same name. Even though the grounds aren't attached to a castle, they are excellent for a fantasy event nonetheless, with plenty of soft grass, open spaces and foresty bits to relax, walk around or take photos. For the latter the event is excellent, as it not only offers a lot of photo locations that come natural to and included in the venue, the organisation also sets up several spots that guests can make use of.

This year's theme was "*Fantasy in Wonderland*" and true to real *Alice in Wonderland* style (mostly inspired by *Tim Burton's* live action movie for *Disney* from a few years ago) they had set up giant chairs and a table, sign posts and a small art exhibit featuring a poem. Aside from that the *Red Queen* and her *card guard* battled children, which was a great variety on the traditional kiddie battle.

If the kiddie battle hadn't made a proverbial bell ring, I'll tell you right now: *FantasyVal* is an excellent family event. They actually cater to families, organising archery workshops, bird of prey shows, interactive storytelling, kiddie battles, LARP battles, circus workshops and much more for little ones to participate in guided by skilled professionals in a safe environment. There's ample room to sit so parents can watch their kids whilst enjoying a moment's rest. For adults there is also plenty to do other than eat, drink, shop and be merry with friends.

Whilst there is little J-fashion or J-culture specific at *FantasyVal*, the event is very open-minded towards all Japanese culture related things, and we saw several people dressed in *lolita*, *aomiji kei*, *gyaru* fashions, as well as anime and popular culture cosplays. So if you are looking for a fun occasion to wear your J-fashion finery to or cosplay at without drama or ridicule, this is definitely the spot.

The Steampunk Objective also traditionally sets up a large camp, bringing along vehicles and introducing the visitors to their subculture through general good cheer. Especially *FairyIna* was a hit with her *Creature Cabinet* as well as the new vehicles (one is a rebuild tractor that looks a lot like the steam powered wheel vehicle used by the young hero from the anime *Steamboy*).

Food and drink wise *FantasyVal* offers the standard stuff you expect to find at a fair, and you can have a decent meal + drink for € 10 or under, which is definitely alright price wise. Unlike last year, where you had the system where you had front a fee for use of your cup (or bring your own), this year several stands sold drinks in bottles and cans, which was a definite improvement. Food ranged from meat on a stick, to burgers, cupcakes, garlic bread, to vegan seitan burgers and ice cream. So there were vegetarian and at least one vegan option. Drinks varied between beers, mead, soft drinks, water, coffee, tea and even bubble tea. The organisation, especially considering the size of the event, really did their best to make sure there was a good selection of food and drink and that everything was set up in a way that there was plenty of space to rest in the shade (and to keep the grass short and thus tick free, also much appreciated!).

We have but one thing to remark. It'd be a good idea to build some kind of shelter for the birds of prey next year. It's a common malaise at events where they will be on display in the bleak sun for hours on end. And whilst some species are unbothered by this, it's painful to see a juvenile Canadian eagle owl screeching and begging for relief and a large eagle trying to pull free for a prolonged time because he is simply that uncomfortable. We like seeing and photographing these fantastic animals as much as the next person, but we rather not have them there at all than see several of them suffer. We are by all means no expert on these kinds of animals, but we know enough about them to be able to tell when they shouldn't be out in the sun like that.

Problems with the birds of prey (which is the fault of the people responsible for them, rather than that of the organisation) aside, *FantasyVal* is an excellent event, especially if you're looking for a fantasy fair to bring your kids to. The organisation does a splendid job on catering to people properly and setting up a wide variety of activities that will keep both adults and children amused for a full day.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



MAKE-OVER & CRAFT LOLITA FASHION MEET

Saturday, June 22; Saltje's place, Belgium.

Photography by and provided by Kathleen Vandervee.



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Kickstarting the
DEMENTED SHOW

Demented Show is the brand new agency project of *Sophie Debusne*, who many already know as one of the staff of *Râmen Events*. Soon she'll embark on the *ECHOES* European tour with Japanese punk rock band *LOKA*.

Wanting to know more about this new agency and its future plans, we spoke to Sophie.

By way of introduction, could you tell us a little about yourself and Demented Show?

Demented Show is a french tour management agency specialising in the organization of Japanese artist's European tours. I've founded it in March 2014, with the support of my associate *Aur lie* of *R men Events*. After spending one year working with *Aur lie*, we came up with the idea of becoming associates.

Demented Show will be in charge of most of the *Visual kei* artists who were previously working with *R men Events* and aside from that we will develop our artist panel. We also support each other's projects, artists and tours.

How did you first get interested in Japanese culture?

As with many people, it started with anime and manga when I was a child, but I've never been such a big fan. At the age of 13, I heard about J-Rock and Visual kei. I never thought that kind of music could exist, so I became curious about it. It was a love at first sight, and it never left me.

What made you decide to actually work with Japanese culture for a living?

When I was 15 years old, I had the chance to go to Japan for the first time. I spent 3 weeks there, in a Japanese homestay family. This experience changed me and opened my mind to what I really wanted to do. I decided to turn my life into this direction. At first, I've studied Japanese, then Tourism and Event Organising, in order to work with Japanese people and to create my own management company.

What inspired you to start your own company of this kind?

This project has been in my mind for 7 years. At the beginning, it was more as a wish to bring Japanese bands to Europe because nobody was doing this. But year after year, new tour management companies started up, taking part of this network. That's why my project had to be well thought out to be able to face the competition.

How did you come up with the name Demented Show?

I've always wanted to mix my two passions into my company's name: *Alice in Wonderland* + music/concerts. With this idea in mind, I finally chose to give a small nod to a band that I particularly like.

You're often seen in the company of Roland the Alpaca, do you think he has good mascot qualities for Demented Show?

Roland is an important member of our staff team. He belongs to the big *R men* family, and has been on tour with many bands since 2013. Now, he has his own family affairs to settle at home, with his wife and children. But I can assure you he'll be back on the *Demented Roads* soon!

What kind of specific responsibilities do you have when it comes to touring with an artist?

Being a tour manager is, in fact, being like a mom going into a long trip with her children. You must book the hotels, prepare the meals, take care not to lose the kids in the supermarket... I'm kidding, but this is a part of the job. The hardest time in a tour is before it actually begins, when you have to book the venues, discuss deals with local promoters, find the necessary funding, work on communication and promotion etc.

What has been the best and the worst moment on tours you have participated on so far?

There are too many good memories so it would be hard to pick only one. I would say that for each tour I did, I've met really awesome people. Not only the artists, but also the staff members, fans, people from media and live houses. It's a wonderful human adventure.

The worst moments on tours are always when you're too sleepy to drive, but you have no other choice than to continue driving for hours, usually at night under a huge downpour of course.

If you could choose one Japanese band you've not toured with yet to bring over for a European tour via Demented Show, who would it be and why?

There are many artists with whom I would love to work on a tour, and I'm open to any proposal. Most of my favourite ones have now disbanded, but in the future I really would like to do a European girl band's tour. For example with *DANGER☆GANG*, *DESTROSE* or *exist+trace*.

You have studied Japanese at university, did you take any management courses as well? And do you think it is necessary to have studied these subjects to work with Japanese artists?

After studying Japanese at university in Paris, I went to a school for foreigners in Japan, in order to speak Japanese better in a short time. When I came back to France, I studied Tourism for 2 years, and Event Organising for 1 year. I think it's necessary to speak and understand Japanese when you work with Japanese people, because they rarely can speak English. But a relative of mine would say it's possible to do it without any knowledge of the Japanese language *winks and smiles*. I also think it helps a lot to have studied and worked in event organising before creating a tour management company.

You've been to Japan several times before, how many work related trips a year do you feel that anyone seriously involved in Japanese band management should take?

I've been to Japan 7 times, but only my last trip was really related to *Demented Show*. I'm not planning to go to Japan at the moment, but it's part of the job to go to concerts, speak to the bands and managements, in order to get contacts and good deals.

This summer you are touring Europe with LOKA on their ECHOEZ tour, what else can we expect from Demented Show in the (near) future?

LOKAb will be the very first tour under *Demented Show*'s name. I am currently working on new projects for the coming months, but I can't tell you more for the moment. I will also continue to take part of *R men Events*' tours with *Roland*.

What do you really want to tell people about Demented Show you've not had the chance to in any of the questions?

I would like to thank all the people involved into this project, I can't wait to see it growing up. This is gonna be awesome. If you wish to join us, offer your help and support, or if you have any question or suggestion, feel free to send me a message on *Demented Show*'s website or Facebook page! I'm looking forward to it!

Official site: www.demented-show.com

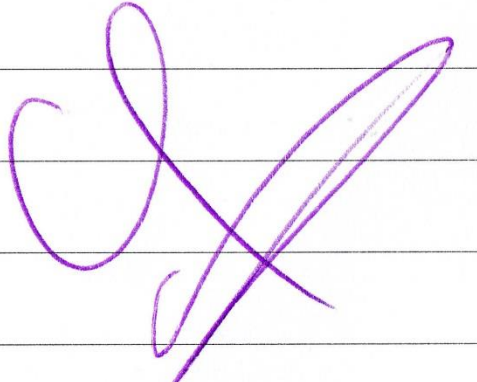
Official facebook: facebook.com/DementedShow

For more information about *LOKA*'s *ECHOEZ* tour, either check the *Demented Show* website or the BCM calendar in this issue (the calendar has dates only!).

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Demented Show logo provided by Sophie Debusne.



Vet's rock'n
horse with
Alpacas!
cemented somewhere!
See you



狂愛曲

ラブソング

僕とボクの



2014.07.20 (sun) 高田馬場 AREA

1stフルアルバム先行発売記念ワンマン「the Graceful Savior」

1st full album「the Graceful Savior」2014.08.20 2タイプ同時発売!

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■ 12都市主催「Legend of Eden」ツアー決定!

2014.08.07 今池Club 3STAR 2014.08.08 心斎橋Club ALIVE!
2014.08.10 小倉WOW 2014.08.11 広島並木Junction
2014.08.18 仙台HooK 2014.08.19 新潟GOLDEN PIG BLACK
2014.08.20 金沢Van Van V4 2014.08.24 池袋EDGE
2014.09.02 柏ThumbUp 2014.09.08 高崎clubFLEEZ
2014.09.14 浦和Narciss 2014.09.18 町田Play House
2014.09.25 池袋EDGE (ツアーファイナル)

■ Event Schedule

2014.06.16 TSUTAYA O-WEST 2014.06.24 Ash OSAKA 2014.06.25 名古屋HOLIDAY NEXT
2014.06.27 Birth Sinjuku 2014.07.05 池袋CYBER 2014.07.09 池袋CYBER (ゲスト)
2014.07.10 仙台space Zero 2014.07.14 名古屋HOLIDAY NEXT 2014.07.15 Ash OSAKA
2014.07.30 新宿RUIDO K4 2014.07.31 新宿RUIDO K4 (ゲスト) 2014.08.01 目黒鹿鳴館

■ リリース情報

3rd Maxi Single「Silent Prayer」2014.04.23 Release

4曲入り / 1,620円 (税込) / 完全限定1000枚限定 / SWSY-4 / FWD Inc.

1st MV collection「dimension of vision」2014.06.25 Release

7曲入り / 4,320円 (税込) / 完全限定1000枚限定 / SWSY-5 / FWD Inc.

■ 着うた配信

iTunes / music.jp超高音質スマートフォン / music.jp超高音質フルスマートフォン / mero.jpうたフル / インディーズ公式サウンド
オリコンインディーズフル / MySoundウタフル / コールト mu-mo / うたフルト mu-mo / レコチョクフル / レコチョク RBT



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シンクイエット

検索



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Selina Davison, Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Drop's
"Call Me"
EP

Genre: Contemporary Jazz/Rock
Release date: 14.5.2014

Drop's is full of fun loving, upbeat modern Jazz mixed in with contemporary influences of rock and pop to become their own special brand Jazz brand. The singer's voice isn't always as stable as it should be, but combined with the flawless arrangements this actually adds a certain charm to the music. If you can appreciate avant-garde twists to your contemporary Jazz at least. Even though this EP only counts 6 songs, of which two are a normal and acoustic version of the brilliant *C-O-F-F-E-E*, Drop's has recorded a good variety of both studio and live recordings ranging from rock and Jazz blends to full on Jazz and even a ballad, showing off their range as a band well without short selling their own sound. A definite recommendation for everyone who likes an original rock band with very strong modern Jazz roots.

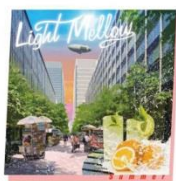
Kyary Pamyu Pamyu live in London

by Selina Davison.

Being at a Kyary Pamyu Pamyu show has a different feeling than any other live show you'll attend. At her sold-out London show at the *Shepherds Bush Empire*, many of the attendees either cosplayed as Kyary or wore bright colours in homage to her. Kyary Pamyu Pamyu is known for her beautiful looks, colourful and sometimes other worldly, something loved and shared by all her fans and shown clearly as fans waited in line to enter the venue.

Once inside the atmosphere is already fun and full of excitement. The stage is set in a colourful toy box theme with a giant teddy bear, oversized books, building blocks and grinning jack-in-the-box. A large screen with a pink and yellow banner, her name spread across it in circus style letters, draped over the top of the screen to show videos throughout the performance and costume changes. Fans didn't have to wait long (thanks to the well organised queuing system at the venue) to feel the beat of one of Kyary's songs and her high-pitched voice travel through the air as she greeted fans. She treated fans to some of her biggest hits such as *Tsukematsukeru* and *Candy Candy*, but the venue came alive and you were certain of her strong UK fan base the moment she sang *PON PON PON* and *Fashion Monster* where not a single body (that I could see in the standing area) in the venue could resist but dance and sing along.

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu spoke very little English and mostly Japanese at the show, but this didn't deter fans responding to her in the most positive and energetic way possible. Her live concert was much more than just a cute girl singing some amazing songs, it was a sensory experience in every way. Kyary's show is much like theatre, or being inside one of her videos for a moment - you get lost in the music. She was accompanied by dancers that clearly loved the show themselves and their part in such a magical experience, which to me, added to the experience. When it came to the closing song, *Chan Chaka Chan Chan*, it was hard to believe it was over. It was a live show I didn't want to end. Sure, I'm a fan. But as fans we know and come to terms with the fact that lives do end once we show up at the venue. But the end of such a sweet and high energy show is a sad one, but a show I put up there with one of my favourite lives I've ever attended. Looking forward to "see you, see you, see you next time" Kyary!



Light Mellow
"Summer"

Album
Genre: Crooner surf pop
Release date: 14.5.2014

Seldom has a CD been more aptly named as *Summer* by Light Mellow. Their musical style on this particular release is simply perfect as a soundtrack for the summer season, or invoking thoughts thereof. You get plenty of this on this 19 track full album, where both vocals and music manage to evoke summer in every note. The combination of different male vocals, switching between male and female only adds to keeping this music

diverse, even though the entire recording is in the same style, making it very coherent and yet keeping the songs different enough for it to never bore. Style wise it is extremely strongly reminiscent of the crooners from the 1950s and light surfer pop from the same era associated with US beach towns and Cuba. Don't mistake this description for this music being old, it's actually very fresh. Quite probably something especially liked by a more mentally mature audience as it has a strong retro feel to it. Nevertheless all of this Light Mellow makes this particular style sound fresh and happening over six decades later. Definitely a recommendation for those that like retro style music, or those looking for something different but representing the season of summer perfectly at the same time.



G.L.A.M.S.
"Under the Moon"

EP
Genre: hard rock

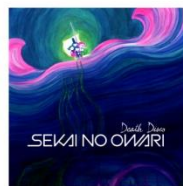
Mikaru's solo project G.L.A.M.S. is currently touring Europe with *Râmen Events*, and this first solo release will be available in Europe on said tour (check the calendar for dates and more information). That said, judging by how strong Mikaru's voice is on the recording, the new songs will undoubtedly stand like a stronghold live, but the CD itself is a bit of a mixed bag. The three rock songs are prime examples of their style, and the new wave influences in the opening song *Call My Name* are an absolutely stroke of genius. Rock is undisputedly what G.L.A.M.S. does best. Ballads, however, are not their forte, and this five song release counts two. That aside, if you like emotional ballads in your J-rock, you're likely to appreciate this a lot more than I do, so definitely give this a go if you're a J-rock fan! And if you can, go see them live, because if *Under the Moon* is anything to go by, the concerts will rock.



NoGoD
Shikisai
EP

Genre: hard rock/heavy metal

NoGoD is back with a new EP, just in time for their performances at *Japan Expo* on July 5 and 6! To add to that, *Shikisai* is available in Europe via *33 Degrees*, so now European fans can pick up their copy close to home. Or at Japan Expo if you want to get your copy signed of course. All this background about Shikisai aside, it's an accomplished work, where NoGoD is not only revisiting their signature sound, but expanding on it and experimenting with influences from other genres, most noteworthy Latin, to expand on their sound and further develop as a band. They're not afraid to try new things, and that shows on this 8 song release, which is half regular NoGoD and half acoustic, showing that the band doesn't need hard and heavy guitars and riffs to make their music rock hard.



SEKARI NO OWARI
"Death Disco"

Single
Genre: electro pop (EBM)

SEKARI NO OWARI returns, after an excellent previous release *Starlight Parade*, with their second European release: *Death Disco*. Once again this is a one track release, and once again, the band makes it count as this is an excellent song indeed. It's an upbeat track that shouldn't do under for popular European big name DJs and that could, and should, be played in (popular) clubs as well as at home by the electro pop lover. It's the kind of track that has a beat that sticks with you and makes you want to get up and dance, enjoying the music to the fullest.

LOKA

ECHOEZ European tour

Bar Live 301

Roubaix - France

Friday, June 20 2014

LOKA closed the European leg of their previous *DEVA'S European tour* in this same venue, and this time 'round *Bar Live 301* provided the opening location for their second European tour, titled *ECHOEZ*.

Even hours before the concert actually started several fans had gathered to welcome the band back to Europe, which is a testimony to the fanbase LOKA has build and the lasting impression they made on people through their particular blend of post-punk, hardcore and (nu)Metal during their last stint in Europe last November.

The band played for about an hour and 15 minutes, coming back out for one more song in encore. The entire gig you could see that they loved being back in Europe, and back on the familiar stage of Bar Live 301. The fans were also very happy to see them again, amongst the crowd there were several familiar faces from the last tour, but also a lot of new faces and when singer *Kihiro* checked about first time attendees to a LOKA live, quite a few hands rose.

That's another great thing about LOKA, singer *Kihiro*'s interaction with the crowd. They really care about connecting, and he will take the time to pause and actually tell them about things important to him and talk to them about songs, both of previous releases and of the brand new release *QUATTRO*, which was introduced and going on sale that same day.

The new songs, despite it being the very first time people heard them, were received with as much enthusiasm as LOKA classics such as "Club Rock Shit", which really set the house on fire.

LOKA has been touring internationally excessively since their last time in Europe and it shows, the sound has improved even more, as has the showmanship and even though they were playing a small club venue, they were as professional as a stadium band performing for tens of thousands of people. Regardless of what happened, such as *Sin* needing to restring his guitar, the band kept on going, even if it meant *Sin* had to join in halfway through a song. And let me tell you, they made it sound like the song simply was like that and it never felt like they were missing the guitar for half of it. They are that good and that skilled.

And even though it had been a long day, the band's smiles for the audience and their love for performing never wavered. Even afterwards during the meet and greet and autograph, cheeky posing segments, they kept on smiling and making it a fantastic moment for every fan that met them that day.

Having LOKA back in Europe is a great thing for all J-music lovers, and they are a definite recommendation if you like harder styles of music. The tour will have plenty of more dates left on it when this review goes to press, and the band will perform on the Saturday (July 5th) of the legendary *Japan Expo* convention, so if you have the chance to see them live, grab it. All dates can be found in the BCM calendar further on in this issue.





present

NoGoD



5th & 6th of JULY 2014

at

Japan Expo

15th IMPACT

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !

CD+DVD Shikisai so as merchandising (EU edition) will be available at Japan Expo and on the 33 Degrees's webshop.

SIGNING SESSION

A signing session will occur at Japan Expo.
(Signing session on official merchandising bought at Japan Expo only).



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NoGoD official website : <http://www.artpop.org/nogod/>



KING RECORDS



WAKANIM
MUSIC

INORAN

Somewhere, right here



A new EP, touring with *LUNA SEA* for their 25th anniversary as well as new releases with that band, a charity project together with *Fender*, **INORAN** leads a busy life filled with projects and events.

We caught up with him to find out a little more about his plans and recent solo release, *Somewhere*, which is also available in Europe.

Sakura is probably the song that is most related to *Somewhere* in people's minds. Did you go and enjoy the cherry blossoms yourself this year?

Unfortunately I was on tour this year during sakura season, so I couldn't go see the cherry blossoms like I usually do. I was, however, lucky enough to see many kinds of cherry blossoms and feel the spring whilst on tour in the country. I wanted to spend a fun time with my close friends and some alcohol under the cherry blossoms though.

When listening to *Somewhere*, I couldn't help but notice how hopeful some of the songs sound. Could you please tell us a little about your own personal hopes?

I hope "today" will be a wonderful day.

There are different musical styles on *Somewhere*, is this kind of diversity in recording something we'll be able to expect from your future works also?

I guess so.

Somewhere was coupled with a charity for the victims of the tsunami disaster of three years ago with the auction of the *Sakura* guitar, how would you say life in Tokyo, where you live, has changed since that dreadful event?

Yes, I think there are some changes when it comes to the energy issues, disaster prevention. And of course "kizuna", which means the bonds that tie people together.

Would you say that people are focussing more on alternative energy now?

I think so. We have more opportunities to discuss it now.

What do you personally feel should change in Japan to better the situation after the disaster, especially for people living in the areas most affected?

A long-term vision to change themselves, with consideration of the later generations.

What was the best part for you of the *Sakura* guitar project?

FENDER's affection for Japan.

What do you think Japan could teach the rest of the world with the aftermath of the tsunami in mind?

Recovery, in the truest sense of the word.

Do you have any plans for other charities to help the people affected by the tsunami?

I would love to join these kinds of events every chance I get.



In previous interviews you said you want to return to Europe. Are there any concrete plans for your second European tour yet?

I don't have any specific plans at this time, but I am always ready to visit. I will surely go to Europe in the near future to have shows.

You are very active on social media, and fans tend to reply to your posts. What is the most memorable thing a fan as ever responded with to you?

Every comment makes me happy, and they are all impressive in their own right.

You have collaborated with many Japanese artists over the years. Who do you still hope to work with one day?

I would love to collaborate with Mr. *Eikichi Yazawa*.

(editor: *Eikichi Yazawa* is an influential rock star and singer-songwriter.)

Do you have any further plans with Muddy Apes this year?

Unfortunately due to scheduling issues we can't meet up and come together this year, but I'm sure we'll be back next year!

LUNA SEA is celebrating the band's 25th anniversary this year, congratulations! What LUNA SEA related moment of the past 25 years has been the most memorable for you?

Well, I think the miracle is that we have continued the band for these 25 years...

Do you think that LUNA SEA's anniversary tour *The Lunatic – A Liberated Will*, will also touch other countries than Japan?

So far we will not. There aren't any plans for foreign dates at the moment.

You're very into fashion, and Belgium is known for its fashion designers and fashion schools also. Who's your favourite Belgian fashion or accessories designer?

There are so many great designers in Belgium! I love *Dries Van Noten*. I actually have bought a jacket by him recently!

Aside from being active in fashion, you are also an avid photographer. Would you ever consider releasing a book with photos you have taken?

If I do, would you like to see it?

(editor: I'm pretty sure I'm speaking for a lot of fans when I say "yes, we would love to see a photo book by you!")

Summer is almost here, what are your plans for the season?

I would like to perform at as many music festivals as possible.

On a closing note: summers in Japan are known for proverbially being hotter than hell. Do you have any survival tips for fans that want to visit the country during summer?

Well, the hotness of summer in Japan is very special. You'd better not go out during the daytime... *laughs*.

Official site: inoran.org

Official facebook: facebook.com/INORANOfficial

Official twitter: twitter.com/INORAN_OFFICIAL

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Photography and Japanese translation provided by King Records.
Many thanks to INORAN and King Records.



Gothic/New Wave band **VELVET EDEN** recently reappeared back on the scene with a best off album "**Double Twelve**". We spoke to singer **DADA**, one of the most diverse artists of the Japanese Goth scene, about his projects, creativity and future plans.



VELVET EDEN has been active since 1998, how would you say the Japanese Goth scene has evolved in that time?
In 1998 there wasn't a Goth scene to speak of like there is now. It was because of the *visual-kei* scene that the Gothic scene developed as well, and that people are supporting us today in the way they are.

You released **Double Twelve** your first album in 15 years, earlier this year. Why come back now specifically?
It's hard to explain why really, *Kan* started working on it and it just organically grew from that point onwards.

Double Twelve is a retrospective of your past works and a very rich career, how did you decide which songs would make the album?
I wanted to make a chronological omnibus of songs starring *Alice* and *Madame Tarantula*.

You've worked together with *Necrosarium* for accessories, could you tell us a little more about this collaboration and how it came to be?
We initially came across each other online, as these things tend to go, and started talking. The collaboration grew from there on, from our conversations.

Which other Japanese artists would you like to collaborate with, in the near future on one of your artistic projects?
If given the opportunity I would really like to work with the brand *Surface Spell*.

What kind of collaboration would you like to do with them?
I'd love to do a costume collab, that'd be great.

You've covered *Depeche Mode's Strangelove*, why choose this song of that band in particular?

During my adolescence I listed to *Depeche Mode* a lot. I've always liked this song. As an added bonus this PV was easy to cover as well. So for us it was a logical choice.

How do you hope *Depeche Mode* would feel about **VELVET EDEN's** cover of their song if they heard it?

It's not like I'm waiting for a nice and "cute" answer. Another thing I like about them is that they're very straight forward, they don't embellish things but say them as they see things. I hope our cover would make them laugh and say something like "silly band".

Which other New Wave bands inspire you?

Some of the classic bands like *Sisters of Mercy*, *New Order*, *Joy Division*, *The Cure* and *Mission*.

DADA, you're also active as a model, illustrator and drag queen, how does all of this influence you when creating music for **VELVET EDEN**?

Everything I do stimulates everything else. The story is the result of an event. That goes for everything I do now. Something will happen in any of the things I do, and it will inspire me to create something from that event.

How does being a member of **VELVET EDEN** influence your other creative works?

Velvet Eden has been in the centre of my creative works recently, which in turn created a lot of feedback for my other projects also.

To European Goths visiting Tokyo, which places would you definitely recommend?

I wouldn't just stick to Tokyo, the old, historical parts of Kyoto are most definitely worth visiting also.

What can we expect from **VELVET EDEN** the coming summer?

I would like to work more on the band's image, because far too many don't really understand what the band is about at this point.

Summer in Japan is known for proverbially being hotter than hell. Do you have any survival tips for fans that want to visit the country during summer?

Eat a lot of spicy food and don't be afraid to sweat, it will be good for your metabolism.

On a closing note, could you tell our readers something about **VELVET EDEN** that is not commonly known?

Actually, when I am writing the lyrics to my songs I don't envision the women. In a sense that they're not actually present. I design them in the same way as if I would design women's clothing for men.



At this point *Velvet Eden* has no official website.

DADA's facebook: facebook.com/pages/Dada-Velvet-Eden/241291840576

Official twitter: twitter.com/VELVETEDENinfo

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Shinya T. Japanese translations by Marty Genicot and Miwakuno Kunio.
Photography by Dokodemo Dora (photo of DADA) and DADA (photo of Chro).
For a French version of this interview, check Hotensai.fr
Many thanks to Kiwamu Kai and DADA.

KAMUO's
return to
Paris



Japanese superstar **KAMIJO** is soon to grace the Parisian stage for an exclusive one live performance to bring his music to European fans once more.

With this performance around the corner of this edition's release date, as well as a new single in the works, we caught up with the artist over email to ask him a few questions.

You're performing one date in Paris, do you have any plans for a full European tour in the future?

Yes of course. In Europe, there are so many people that I love. I'm looking forward to sing for them.

Why just the one date in Paris specifically?

I chose Paris because it matches the concept of my new work. Also because I wanted to thank the French staff who had organized the Versailles European tour and the concert at the Versailles Castle.

How would you say your music has evolved since the last time you were in Europe?

I think that my music became more conceptual since I do my solo career. I can express myself more naturally.

You are releasing your new single *Yamiyo no Lion* on July 16, what can you tell us about it already?

I'm good at this kind of music. I'm sure that you will drop your tears once you listen to the "KAMIJO melodies" on this song.

Will you be performing the songs from that single at your Paris concert?

I think that we will play this one. Please don't forget your handkerchief.

Your concert date falls in the middle of Japan Expo, will we be able to see you at the festival as well?

Yes it's planned so. Please enjoy the Japanese culture.

Are you going to do some sightseeing in Paris? If so, what do you want to see and do for sure?

Unfortunately I don't think I'll have enough time. I wish that I had time to go to the *Moulin Rouge*.

Paris is one of the fashion capitals of the world, and fashion is very important to musicians, which French designer is your favourite?
I very much like *Christian Dior's* sunglasses and *Chanel's* clothing.

You are head of two record labels as well, what inspired you to start your own record companies?

Because I felt that producing music is a part of playing music.

Previously you have always been part of a band before becoming a solo artist. Is there any chance you will form another band in the future?
Please keep believing in me.

What kind of musical genre would you like it to be?

It would be "Epic Metal".

As a Belgian magazine, we are of course curious, would you consider coming to Belgium to perform at some point?

Yes I would like to come. Please invite me, I'm waiting for an offer.

What do you know about Belgium that isn't waffles, beer or chocolate?

For me the biggest image of Belgium is still chocolate. I have even put chocolate on my lyrics of the song *Moulin Rouge*.

Summer in Japan is known for proverbially being hotter than hell. Do you have any survival tips for fans that want to visit the country during summer?

Eat ice-cream, naked!

As a closing note: could you tell our readers something about yourself that isn't commonly known?

The color of my underwear and of the t-shirt that I'm wearing today is pink *laughs*. It's true!

Official site: chateau-agency.com/kamijo

Official twitter: twitter.com/KamijoOfficial

Official youtube: youtube.com/user/kamijoofficial

KAMIJO will hold a signing session at Japan Expo on Friday, July 4th, check the event's website for more information.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by B7KLAN.
Many thanks to B7Klan and KAMIJO.

*"Eat
ice-
cream,
naked"*



LOKA

echoing sounds quadruplicated



LOKA is back in Europe on a brand new tour called *ECHOEZ*, releasing their brand new album *QUATTRO*, musically displaying their improved sound and to top it off they're on the bill of the 15th anniversary of *Japan Expo* on July 5th. All the more reason to catch up with them on the first stop of their tour in *Roubaix*, France.

Last time you closed your tour in Bar Live 301 here in Roubaix and this time you're opening the tour in the same venue, does performing here feel any different this time 'round?

Kihiro (vocals): Yeah it does feel different. Last time, because it was the end of the tour, it felt more like a kind of family party with our staff and friends. So I guess it was much more relaxing. Anyhow, compared to today, which is the first date of the tour. It's not like a rehearsal obviously, but it's the first show, which will kick off the *ECHOEZ* tour. But it does help, and it is relaxing in a way to be able to start the tour in a venue we know. It will also be a good preparation of what is to come tomorrow. And in addition, it's close to where we are staying, which is always good *chuckles*. Last time we opened in Munich and had to travel thousands of miles to get straight to the second date, so our promoter did a good job *laughs*.

This isn't the only venue you'll be performing at again, to which live hall do you look forward to return to the most and why?

Kihiro: Cologne and Vienna, those two were out of the best last time. Hopefully we'll have twice the audience there this time.

You'll be performing at Japan Expo, which is widely regarded as the biggest J-culture convention of Europe, on the busiest day as well. How does it make you feel to be on the bill of an event of this magnitude?

Kihiro: It's great! It's the main reason we're out here on this tour right now. We applied for a spot and got it, so now we've got to make the best of it. It will be the first time for LOKA to ever play such a big stage. It's like nine thousand people, which is simply ...wow. I think the most we've played for would be around two to three thousand, so this will be a totally different world. But it will be fun.

Is there anything you want to participate in yourself at Japan Expo?

Kihiro: Actually a really good friend of ours will be doing *shodo* (editor: shodo is the art of traditional Japanese calligraphy) demonstrations there. She's a really good shodo artist, she designed the tattoo on my hand. She actually also designed our tour t-shirt this time too, she wrote the "sexy, bad and heavy" in shodo. Her name is *Miho Kanchi* and she'll be performing on the same day as us. It'll be great to have a friend there, that's the main thing we look forward to seeing. If you get the chance you should go see her too. The good thing about Japan Expo is that it's not just about manga and anime and if you want to get deeper into Japanese culture then shodo is definitely one of the deepest and more artist disciplines you can get. And she's a bad ass artists so you should definitely go and check her out now you have this unique opportunity.

What do you hope your performance at Japan Expo will do for the band?

Kihiro: I know our videos are being played on *MTV* and *NoLife*, and people have access to them via things like *Youtube*. But nowadays a band needs to show what they got at a live, and Japan Expo is offering the opportunity for us to do that in front of a really huge amount of people. So I'm really hoping for more exposure. So people that come and see us will understand why we have fans out here. And that people who maybe have heard of us get curious and take the time to actually come see us at the con and that we can blow them away. So hopefully we'll gain more fans in the process as well. We really want to blow people away with our music.

This is your second European tour, why did you choose the name ECHOEZ for it?

Kihiro: Because it's an echo, not just the echo of our first tour because we came back, but we hope it keeps on going after this tour too, that it echoes a lot. That our sound will resonate so we can come back again, and again.

How do you feel touring Europe has changed LOKA?

Kihiro: We became a much tighter band I think. Since last time we had a lot of negative things to overcome, and we did. So that should help us for this time. We're ready this time so we're worrying less and everything will be much more enjoyable.



LOKA



You're releasing your new album, QUATTRO, on this tour. Do you think European reception of the album will differ much than the Japanese at home?

Kihiro: I don't think so, it should be the same, it's a good album *laughs*. I think that regardless of people's nationality, I think everyone will receive this album very differently than our previous album because we put so much thought in it about the changes we made. We didn't change our core style, but just one thing such as hard rock or heavy metal doesn't work for us, so wanted to do something new but still solid of what we are, make our sound evolve. So we have some very pop-ish songs that are still rocking, some metal/hardcore stuff, and then we have an acoustic ballad in there. We've tried to spread our range into a wider genre so all those ten songs became QUATTRO, the new album. It's become one big story, almost like a movie. We worked hard for it to become that so we want the listener to really listen through from 1 to 10, see if you can visualise what the music is telling.

What does the title QUATTRO stands for, for LOKA?

Kihiro: It means number four, and we chose the title because it's the first album we made with the four of us. Because the previous album was only *Ken'Ichi* and I putting it together. And now we're a four piece band and this is our first four piece band album, so QUATTRO made sense as a title.

What's different on the second tour?

Sin (guitar): I've got a new hairstyle *grins*.

Katsumi (bass): We're playing in more countries too.

Ken'Ichi (drums): And we're using a bigger car *laughs*.

Kihiro: And we've got better gear and instruments, that's also very important. The crowd should hear things better because we're really _set_ this time. Because last time we had to get everything together upon arrival in the venue. But this time we have everything organised and we have our shit packed and we're ready to go. Hurray promotor *chuckles and grins at Sophie of *Demented Show*! She's looking at me like "you don't know how fucking hard that shit was" *which causes everyone to laugh*.

Sophie Debusne (promotor): Exactly!

You just want to be on her good side.

Kihiro: Uh-hu, absolutely *grins*.

Did you guys pack the snare drum this time?

Kihiro: Actually we did not. But only because Ken'Ichi is now endorsed by *Tama Drums*, so the good people of *Tama Germany* send his tour kit over to us.

What are you most looking forward to on this tour?

Sin: Eating onigiri at Japan Expo *grins*.

Kihiro: I'm looking forward to fans talking about our shows to our friends and telling them that LOKA was frigging good. Blabber it people! *Jokes* because if not we're not coming back *laughs*.

Kihiro, are you still taking photos of emergency exit signs?

Laughs no, not this time. I'm thinking about something new for this tour. Maybe I'll do photos with fire hydrants, that's different. I'm still thinking about something else than emergency exit signs *laughs*.

Where did you end up taking your favourite sign last tour?

Unfortunately it wasn't taken in Europe, I took it in Dubai. That was definitely the funniest one. It was very what the fuck, it was just too different, which is why it's my fave.

Nearing our closing note: summer in Japan is known for proverbially being hotter than hell. Do you have any survival tips for fans that want to visit the country during summer?

Kihiro: Good luck *laughs*. Get one of those Japanese umbrellas to protect you from the sun, and pack plenty of changes of clothes.

Do you have summer plans?

Kihiro: Oh yeah, we'll be everywhere, we have like 45 shows across country between July 21st and December 7th. The very last day will be our one man in *SHIMOKITAZAWA GARDEN* in Tokyo. We get back from Europe in Japan on July 17th and then the next tour starts a few days after.

Hopefully you won't be too jetlagged.

Kihiro: Nah, we'll be fine, don't worry, our life cycle pretty much is jetlag anyway *smiles*.

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/LokaOfficial

Official twitter: twitter.com/LOKAofficial

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and provided by Demented Show.
Japanese translations by Kihiro.
Many thanks to LOKA and Demented Show.



自分の理想は

自分の理想は

Love

Thank you guys in TV!

Please give me

love! ♡

Love

お久しぶりです。

また会いましょう。

I'll be back!! (ターミネーター)

~~高橋~~

BEER

~~高橋~~

LOKA



Global preview of the anime K: Missing Kings at Japan Expo! July 2 - 6, Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France.

To keep up to date with this event check: twitter.com/STARCHILD_Int and www.facebook.com/starchild.international
Or join the worldwide K fan society: <http://k-project-twwp.com>

歌舞伎町一番街



LADY BEARD

Taking Tokyo by force



Imagine an Australian who's worked in the anime industry in Hong Kong, who started cross dressing and wrestling and moved to Tokyo to take the Japanese wrestling world by storm, and of course force.

Got it that image firmly in mind?

Great, because it's not just an image, it's the amazing **Ladybeard!**

We spoke to him over email, wanting to find out more about himself and of course wrestling in the Land of the Rising Sun.

You're originally from Australia and have lived in Hong Kong as well, how did you end up as a wrestler in Tokyo, Japan?

I was wrestling and performing my heavy metal show in Hong Kong, and after every show people said I should go to Japan. I always suspected Japan would appreciate me, and my tour here in 2011 confirmed that. After receiving the best audience responses ever, I decided Japan was the place for me, and moved over in 2013.

In Hong Kong you did dubs for anime, which is your personal favourite anime character and anime in general you have worked on?
My favourite character is *Tamozo* from *Chibi Maruko Chan*. He was one of the most fun characters ever, because simple daily life was so full of challenges and internal adventure for him. My favourite series, however, is *Baccano!* That series was so engaging, and also so cool with its violence, characters and theme, I never wanted to leave the booth to let the other actors dub!

Which is your favourite anime in general and why?

Baccano. It was incredible both to watch and dub.

People in Europe mostly know the WWF wrestling scene and European versions thereof, how would you say the Japanese scene differs from that?

Stylistically the Japanese like to see "real" matches more. So many matches have a theme of "warrior spirit" and can be a contest of who can take the hardest bludgeoning without giving up. On the other hand however, some of the comedy can get very extreme and ridiculous, like the Japanese game shows we all know. It can be very different from western style wrestling.

What would you say are the best and the worst things about being a wrestler in Japan?

The best thing: it's awesome! And the fans are incredibly appreciative, when they like you they back you 100%.

The worst: ... there's nothing I don't like about it really. The only downside is not having my family and close friends from elsewhere with me in Japan to share the experience.

How did you come up with the name and your persona of Ladybeard?

I've been cross dressing to go to rock 'n roll shows and parties for years. Everyone has more fun when a man in a dress is in the room, and the party heats up faster because people get excited quickly. When I started cross dressing in Hong Kong people just lost their minds, much more than they ever had in Australia. The society's quite conservative, so people thought I was the craziest and funniest thing they'd ever seen. I came up with the alias Ladybeard, which happened to translate well into Cantonese. Then when I started wrestling in Hong Kong I used Ladybeard as my gimmick, and instantly became the most popular wrestler in Hong Kong.



Beards are awesome, it's a fact, could you give our male readers tips on maintaining a beard as fabulous as yours?

You are correct, beards are the source of all that is righteous and pure on the earth. As you strive to become a better person, your beard will flourish into a breath taking monument to your blossoming strength of character. First cultivate the self, then the beard will follow. This is advice for both men and women.

Staying in top shape is of course very important, could you tell us a little about your daily fitness routine and diet?

I hit about 1 1/2 hours of weights every day, cardio in various forms 3-5 times a week, then try to hit technical training of some kind whenever possible. Ideally that's 3-5 times per week. Diet wise, I eat a vegan diet a lot of the time, mainly consisting of bean variations such as chick peas, red kidney beans and green peas. My fans give me beans by the case full and I'm very lucky, they prove incredibly useful gifts. A busy schedule has the potential to throw diet and training into disarray, so I'm very lucky to have a management that makes scheduling allowances so that I can keep up.

Do you do any sports aside from wrestling?

Martial arts of various kinds have always been a passion. I'm also quite fond of rock climbing.

Is there a Japanese designer you'd love to collaborate with for your stage outfits or accessories?

Off the top of my head, no. I'm still learning about styling.

We all know your stage outfits, but what kind of fashion do you like to wear when you're not in the guise of Ladybeard?

Not in the guise of Ladybeard? ... I don't know what you're talking about...

Are there any specific Japanese fashion styles you'd love to try out? Both professionally and personally?

I really like certain Lolita fashions. I think styling's very tricky, because we all have different bodies, faces, hair, smiles, etc, and what looks good on me doesn't necessarily look good on you. But when I see Lolita nailed perfectly I find it incredibly cute, and other worldly. I've worn Lolita dresses before, but I'd love to develop some more Lolita outfits that work on me. I'd also love to figure out how to make them practical for onstage/in ring performance, because those dresses are not very practical from my perspective. You don't see many girls from Harajuku screaming and headbanging, or wrestling, however, so I guess that makes perfect sense...

Summer in Japan is known for proverbially being hotter than hell. Do you have any survival tips for fans that want to visit the country during summer?

This is actually my first Japanese summer, although I did survive six years of Hong Kong summers, which get horrendously humid, and also I'm from the driest state in the driest continent on earth. My advice would be: bring your igloo. You'll need it!

On a closing note: So how about the ballet?

I absolutely love ballet! My skills still have a long, long way to go, but I absolutely love the movements, and the way the postures and movements feel in my body. I come from a *Tae Kwon Do* background, and many of the *Tae Kwon Do* attributes cross over into ballet, such as flexibility, core strength, leg strength, so I have an advantage over others at my level of experience. However, ballet of course presents its own new sets of amazing challenges. I look forward to dancing a lot more in the future.

Official site: www.ladybeard.com

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/ladybeardjapan

Official twitter: twitter.com/ladybeard_japan

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by Dan Orlowitz.



Karolina Pacan

Helcanen Val

OUT SOON!
THIS OCTOBER!

Once upon a Poem

OUT SOON! Official release at Metal Female Voices Fest, Friday, October 17 2014; Oktoberhallen, Wieze, Belgium.
A book of poetry by Karolina Pacan (of Skeptical Minds) and illustrations by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).

Aspects of Goth





Tophat, thrifted vintage. **Frames**, thrifted vintage. **Blouse**, thrifted. **Faux fur fox stole**, taobao. **JSK**, Metamorphose, Temps de Fille. **Gloves**, present from a friend. **Tights**, Aldi. **Shoes**, Bodyline.



Lindsay Schoolcraft of Cradle of Filth. Tentacle Crown, Tegan Ridge. Shrug, top and skirt, Folks Dark & Heavy Clothing. Jewellery, model's own.



TElombre, master of ceremony of COALESCAREMONIUM in an outfit specially designed for COALESCAREMONIUM, Radiant Darkness.



Outfit by Rachael Forbes.





Bonnet, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. **Necklace**, Moss Märchen. **Blouse**, Asos. **JSK**, handmade by Andrea. **Socks**, offbrand. **Shoes**, Taobao.



Karo of Skeptical Minds wearing an outfit with pieces bought on restyle.pl and in various offbrand stores.



Horns made out of fake hair, handmade by Clara. **Hair flowers**, H&M, Primark and Zeeman. **Cloack**, model's own. **Fur stole**, vintage. **Blouse**, thrifted. **Dress**, taobao shop. **Bag**, Bodyline. **Claw fingertip rings**, model's own. **Other accesories**, various offbrand shops and handmade by Clara. **Shoes**, Bodyline.



Headbow, Innocent World. JSK, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. Blouse, Innocent World. Tights, offbrand. Boots, offbrand.



Wig, Lockshop Wigs. **Hair flowers**, Claire's. **Fangs**, Father Sebastian. **Top**, Bodyline. **Corset**, Dracula Clothing. **Bustle skirt**, Fan Plus Friend. **Hoopskirt**, Restyle. **Footwear**, model's own.



Wig, Lockshop Wigs. Blouse, vintage. JSK, Alice and the Pirates. OTK socks, Alice and the Pirates. Boots, offbrand. Accessories, Bodyline and offbrand.

VELVETEDEN



FILM NOIR



ATSUSACON

19 & 20 juli, Antwerp Expo

Zaterdag 10u - 20u Japanse activiteiten

Anime & manga

Zondag 10u - 18u

Sport & games

cosplay

VVK

1 dag €10*

2 dagen €15*

* Excl. behandelingskosten

Kassa

1 dag €13

2 dagen €18



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

JULY 2014

Japan Expo

15th anniversary edition
Without Comic Con Paris this year!
Date: 2 – 6
Venue: Parc des Expositions
Paris-Nord Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo.com



Mikaru live

"Under The Moon" European tour
2: Klub Firlej, Wrocław, Poland
3: REPLUGGED, Vienna, Austria
4: Garage DeLuxe, Munich, Germany
5: Contopia, Dortmund, Germany
ramenevents.wordpress.com

LOKA live

"ECHOEZ" European tour
4: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
5: Japan Expo, Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord Villepinte, Villepinte, France
7: RockSound, Barcelona, Spain
8: Secret Place, Montpellier, France
10: Garage Deluxe, Munich, Germany
11: REPPLUGED, Vienna, Austria
12: Storm Club, Prague, Czech Republic
13: Klub Progresja, Warsaw, Poland
www.demented-show.com



KAMIJO live

Date: 4
Venue: Le Divan du Monde
City: Paris
Country: France
www.b7kklan.com

JAPAN MUSIC FEST 2014

Dead End, Sadie and SuG live!
Date: 6
Venue: l'Olympia
City: Paris
Country: France
facebook.com/japanmusicfest2014

French Café – Garden party

Harajuku fans gathering
Date: 7
Venue: Le Manoir de l'Île aux Loups
City: Nogent sur Marne
Country: France
Google for the Facebook event page!

Atsusacon

Date: 19 – 20
Venue: Antwerp Expo
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.atsusacon.be

HYPER JAPAN

Date: 25-27
Venue: Earl's Court
City: London
Country: UK
<http://hyperjapan.co.uk>

D.E.S.C.

Dutch European Steampunk Convention
Date: 25 – 27
Venue: De Lindehorst
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.dutcheuropeansteampunkconvention.nl

SEPTEMBER 2014

sukekiyo European tour

13: PIPL Club, Moscow, Russia
15: Nosturi, Helsinki, Finland
17: Le Divan du Monde, Paris, France
18: O2 Academy Islington, London, UK
20: C-Club, Berlin, Germany
21: Zeche Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Elfia Arcen

Date: 20-21
Venue: the grounds of Arcen castle
City: Arcen
Country: The Netherlands
www.elfia.com

Tea Party Club anniversary event

Date: 20-21
Venue: TBA
City: London
Country: UK
streetfashioneurope.tumblr.com

OCTOBER 2014

Metal Female Voices Fest

With Japanese bands Magistina Saga and HEAD PHONES PRESIDENT
Date: 17 – 19
Venue: Oktoberhallen
City: Wize
Country: Belgium
www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be



FACTS

Date: 18 – 19
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

Chibi Japan Expo

Previously known as Japan Expo Centre
Date: 27 – 28
Venue: Parc des Expos
City: Orléans
Country: France
www.japan-expo-centre.com

If you are interested in attending the Belgian Halloween themed J-fashion events on Sunday, October 26 or Friday, October 31st, send an email to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com for further details.



METAL FEMALE VOICES FEST

Oktoberhallen **XII** 17-18-19/10/2014



Sunday 19

XANDRIA **WOLFE** **THE RION**
STREAM OF PASSION **VIPER SOLFA** **HOLY MOSES**
ENEMY OF REALITY *Magister Grace* *Aria Flame* **EVEPOIRE**

Saturday 18

SIRENIA *The Sirens* *Leaves' Eyes*
LIV KRISTINE & KARI RUESLÄTTEN & ANNEKE VAN GIESBERGEN
DIABVLVS IN MVSIKA **DRACONIAN** *Humps of a Decade*
10th Anniversary special show
SKEPTICAL MINDS **DARK SAKAH** **HEAD PHONES** **PRESIDENT** **JADE STAR**
La Ventura **ANCIEN BARD S** *season of ghosts*

Friday 17

AYIN **DIARY OF DESTRUCTION** **METAL FEMALE VOICES UNITED**
 Cover Band project Featuring: Mariangela The Murtas, Cassandra Novell, Maxi Nil, Ailyn Giménez, Karolina Pacan, Iliana Tsakiraki, Saeko Kitamae

Oktoberhallen : Schrovestraat 18 - 9280 Wieze (Belgium) www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

Presales : Paylogic, Ticketnet, Fnac, Primera, Metaltrip, Hard Rock market, Metaltix



Meeki

BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



Cate



Dody



AyraLeona



Anno



Ina and Ezekiel



Kitty & Daniela



Lunie of Lunieshop.com



Hilde



LONDON KITTY CANE



Alisha and Daisy



Anne, Gloria and Sophie of Demented Snow

ANTWERP CONVENTION #4

SNAP!

Sunday, April 27; Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and the photographer of Belgian Whovians United.



WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN SNAP!

June 6 - 9, Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



CHECK THAT CHEKI

Want to be in the next edition's Check that Cheki page?

Send a Cheki photo of yourself to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



TOO WILD

*Too Wild Agency,
Providing services to Artists*

Promotion - Photoshoot
Design - Video - Booking
Communication - etc...

toowild.agency@gmail.com

www.too-wild.com



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 20 is **August 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of August 25nd will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed beforehand). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better! (e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 20,
our Halloween edition,
spanning the months
September and October 2014.

Fashion

Style Spotlight: Cult Party kei!

Cult Party kei fashion feature

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.
So if you have a good quality high resolution photo of yourself
wearing cult Party kei fashion, please don't hesitate to send it in!

Halloween themed J-fashion photo feature

Any type of J-fashion is welcome, as long as it is Halloween themed!

Snap pages and more!

J-Music Corner

CD reviews

Concert reviews

Interviews with

Yukio Murata of my way my love

NoGoD

Rose Noire

Lifestyle

Event reviews

J-fashion meets

Artifakt steampunk meets

Interview with Harajuku style icon Eleanor
(if schedules permit!)

Check that cheki.

And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps,
send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed),
or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event
and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!

If you want to be part of the new Check that Cheki page, send in
scans of photos you have taken with any kind of instant camera.
Instax models are preferred but by all means, any instant camera
is ok as long as the photo is relevant to BCM.



